



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUC TAKES FURTHER ACTION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM UNLAWFUL TRANSPORTATION AND MOVING COMPANIES

SAN FRANCISCO, June 16, 2005 - The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), in its ongoing efforts to protect consumers, today empowered its Executive Director to immediately suspend and then revoke the operating permits of passenger carrier companies and moving companies once the conviction of specified crimes has been verified.

The Commission believes that this streamlined process for suspending and then revoking the operating authority of carriers convicted of certain types of crimes is more effective and efficient than its current process of opening a formal proceeding and engaging in sometimes extensive litigation which may result in the suspension or revocation of the operator's authority.

Transportation Companies

The Commission regulates the transportation of passengers by charter party carriers in the state, including limousines, airport shuttles, charter and scheduled bus operators. Carriers may not provide this service without first obtaining a permit or certificate from the Commission's Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD), which performs a limited evaluation of the carrier's qualifications for a charter party carrier permit by, among other things, checking to ensure the carrier has a proper driver's license and has the insurance coverage required under state statute. Current law does not allow CPSD access to the state summary criminal history information maintained by the California Department of Justice prior to the Commission's issuance of a charter party carrier permit or certificate, however, this information is available to CPSD after issuance of permits or certificates.

In order to swiftly act if licensed carriers are convicted of specified crimes after they become licensed, the Commission's Executive Director can now cancel, suspend, or revoke a charter party carrier's operating authority after notification by the PUC's General Counsel that the carrier or one

or more of its officers has been convicted of a misdemeanor violation of the Charter Party Carriers' Act or has been convicted of certain felonies, limited to burglary, larceny, robbery, fraud, or intentional dishonesty for personal gain. The Executive Director will report these actions, and the basis for any appeals that are received, to the Commission at the earliest Commission meeting after action is taken.

Consumers who have problems with carriers can file a complaint with the PUC by calling 1-800-894-9444.

Moving Companies

The Commission regulates the transportation of used household goods by moving companies in the state. Carriers may not provide this service without first obtaining a permit from the Commission. CPSC evaluates the carrier's qualifications for a household goods carrier permit by checking the criminal records files of the California Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation for information about the applicant's criminal record. Despite best efforts to use a qualification process to screen out individuals that are likely to take advantage of customers if they were to be licensed, there are a number of household goods carriers that violate California laws and Commission regulations after they become licensed.

In order to swiftly act if licensed moving companies are convicted of specified crimes after they become licensed, the Commission's Executive Director, can now suspend or revoke the company's permit upon notification by the PUC's General Counsel that the company or one or more of its officers has been convicted of a misdemeanor violation of the Household Goods Carriers Act or has been convicted of certain felonies, limited to burglary, larceny, robbery, fraud, or intentional dishonesty for personal gain. The Executive Director will report a suspension or revocation of a permit, and the basis of any appeals that are received, to the Commission at the earliest Commission meeting after action is taken.

Consumers who have problems with moving companies can file a complaint with the PUC by calling 1-800-366-4782.

For more information on the PUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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